

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1-2. (Canceled)

1 3. (Original) A network operating system booting method, comprising:

2 (a) a step, performed by a user terminal when power is supplied to said user
3 terminal, of executing a system BIOS that has been stored on a read-only storage
4 device, executing predetermined initialization processing by the system BIOS,
5 subsequently loading BIOS preboot means, which has been stored in said storage
6 device, into a memory of said user terminal and delivering control to said BIOS
7 preboot means;

8 (b) a step, performed by said BIOS preboot means, of acquiring OS booting
9 user information, which has been stored on a removable storage medium, using a
10 removable-storage device driver of said user terminal, and displaying this user
11 information as a boot menu on a display of said user terminal;

12 (c) a step, performed by said BIOS preboot means when the user selects an OS
13 environment from the boot menu displayed on said display, of transmitting user
14 information to a server via a network, said user information corresponding to the OS
15 environment selected by the user and including an operating system, start-up
16 application, user ID and security information;

17 (d) a step, performed by said server that has received the user information
18 transmitted from said user terminal, of retrieving the user information from a user
19 database on which user information has been registered in advance, comparing the
20 user information that has been transmitted from said user terminal with information
21 that has been registered in said user database, and transmitting a specified operating
22 system and application to said user terminal if it is verified that the user possesses the
23 privilege to implement a requested OS environment; and

24 (e) a step, performed by said BIOS preboot means of said user terminal, of

25 storing the operating system and application, which have been transmitted from said
26 server, as files in a secondary storage device of said user terminal, delivering control
27 to said operating system together with an OS boot option, and booting said operating
28 system.

1 4-5. (Canceled)

1 6. (Original) In a user terminal, a network operating system booting system for
2 executing a system BIOS in a read-only storage device when power is supplied to said
3 user terminal;

4 said system BIOS performing control to load BIOS preboot means, which has
5 been stored in said storage device, into a memory of said user terminal after
6 initialization processing is executed, and deliver control to said BIOS preboot means;

7 said BIOS preboot means having means for acquiring OS booting user
8 information, which has been stored on a removable storage medium, using a
9 removable-storage device driver of said user terminal;

10 means for extracting settings names from all settings information included in
11 the user information and displaying these settings names as a boot file on a display of
12 said user terminal; and

13 means which, when the user selects an OS environment desired to be booted
14 from the boot menu displayed on said display, is for transmitting an operating system,
15 start-up application, user ID and security information, which correspond to the OS
16 environment selected from the user information by the user, to a server;

17 said server having:

18 a user database in which user information has been registered;

19 means which, when the operating system, start-up application, user ID and
20 security information have been received from said user terminal, is for retrieving
21 information of the user ID from said user database, comparing the user information
22 that has been transmitted from said user terminal with information that has been
23 registered in said user database, and verifying whether the user possesses the privilege
24 to implement a requested OS environment; and

25 means for transmitting an operating system and application, which have been
26 specified at said user terminal, to said user terminal if it has been verified that the user
27 possesses said privilege;

28 said BIOS preboot means of said user terminal having:

29 means for storing the operating system and application, which have been
30 transmitted from said server, as files in a secondary storage device of said user
31 terminal; and

32 means for delivering control to said operating system together with a boot
33 option of said operating system, and booting said operating system.

1 7. (Canceled).

1 8. (Original) A computer readable program product for executing the following
2 processes (a) to (f):

3 wherein when power is supplied to a user terminal, a system BIOS in a
4 read-only storage device thereof is executed;

5 said system BIOS having:

6 (a) a process for performing control to load BIOS preboot means, which has
7 been stored in said storage device, into a memory of said user terminal after
8 initialization processing is executed, and delivering control to said BIOS preboot
9 means;

10 said BIOS preboot means having:

11 (b) a process for acquiring OS booting user information, which has been stored
12 on a removable storage medium, using a removable-storage device driver of said user
13 terminal;

14 (c) a process for extracting settings names from all settings information
15 included in the user information and displaying these settings names as a boot file on
16 a display of said user terminal; and

17 (d) a process which, when the user selects an OS environment desired to be
18 booted from the boot menu displayed on said display, is for transmitting an operating
19 system, start-up application, user ID and security information, which correspond to the

20 OS environment selected from the user information by the user, to a server;
21 said server having a user database in which user information has been
22 registered; when the user information has been received, said server retrieving the user
23 information from said user database, comparing the user information that has been
24 transmitted from said user terminal with information that has been registered in said
25 user database; said server verifying whether the user possesses the privilege to
26 implement a requested OS environment; and said server transmitting an operating
27 system and application, which have been specified at said user terminal, to said user
28 terminal if it has been verified that the user possesses said privilege;
29 said BIOS preboot means of said user terminal having:
30 (e) a process for storing the operating system and application, which have been
31 transmitted from said server, as files in a secondary storage device of said user
32 terminal; and
33 (f) a process for delivering control to said operating system together with a
34 boot option of said operating system, and booting said operating system.

1 9. (Original) A computer readable program product for executing processes (a) and
2 (b) by a computer of a server,
3 wherein when power is supplied to a user terminal, a system BIOS in a
4 read-only storage device thereof is executed;
5 said system BIOS having means for loading BIOS preboot means, which has
6 been stored in said storage device, in a memory of said user terminal after
7 initialization processing, and delivering control to said BIOS preboot means;
8 said BIOS preboot means having:
9 means for acquiring OS booting user information, which has been stored on a
10 removable storage medium, using a removable-storage device driver of said user
11 terminal;
12 means for extracting settings names from all settings information included in
13 the user information and displaying these settings names as a boot file on a display of
14 said user terminal; and
15 means which, when the user selects an OS environment desired to be booted

16 from the boot menu displayed on said display, is for transmitting an operating system,
17 start-up application, user ID and security information, which correspond to the OS
18 environment selected from the user information by the user, to a server;

19 said server having a user database in which user information has been
20 registered;

21 said server having:

22 (a) a process which, when the user information has been received, retrieves the
23 user information from said user database, compares the user information that has been
24 transmitted from said user terminal with information that has been registered in said
25 user database, and verifies whether the user possesses the privilege to implement a
26 requested OS environment; and

27 (b) a process for transmitting an operating system and application, which have
28 been specified at said user terminal, to said user terminal if it has been verified that
29 the user possesses said privilege;

30 said BIOS preboot means of said user terminal having:

31 means for storing the operating system and application, which have been
32 transmitted from said server, as files in a secondary storage device of said user
33 terminal; and

34 means for delivering control to said operating system together with a boot
35 option of said operating system, and booting said operating system.

1 10. (Canceled)

1 11. (Previously presented) A user terminal network-connected to a server which
2 stores an operating system executed by the user terminal, said user terminal
3 downloading the operating system from said server and booting the operating system,
4 said user terminal comprising:

5 preboot means started up at booting; and

6 means for accessing a storage medium removably inserted into said user
7 terminal;

8 said preboot means having:

9 means for transmitting, to said server, information corresponding to an
10 operating system which a user has selected from OS-boot setting user information that
11 has been recorded on said storage medium; and

12 means which, when said server authenticates the user of said user terminal
13 based upon the user information that has been transmitted from said user terminal and
14 transmits a specified operating system and application to said user terminal, is for
15 storing the operating system and application as files in a secondary storage device of
16 said user terminal, delivering control to said operating system together with a boot
17 option of the set operating system, and booting said operating system, wherein there is
18 a server comprising:

19 a storage device for storing an operating system and an application started up
20 by a user terminal;

21 a user database in which are previously registered, for every user ID, an
22 operating system bootable by the user terminal, an application capable of being started
23 by the user terminal, and security information;

24 means which, when the user information has been received by said user
25 terminal is for retrieving the user information from said user database, comparing the
26 user information that has been transmitted from said user terminal with information
27 that has been registered in said user database, and verifying whether the user possesses
28 the privilege to implement a requested OS environment; and

29 means for transmitting an operating system and application, which have been
30 specified at said user terminal, to said user terminal if it has been verified that the user
31 possesses said privilege.